



**REPRESENTATIVE
BRIAN SULLIVAN**

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT



**REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE COOPER**

Summer 2003

Dear Neighbor,

It's been a tough legislative session, but we're pleased to say that we accomplished a lot in Olympia this year.

Some of our achievements for the 2003 session include:

- Passing a transportation plan to boost our economy and get us out of gridlock.
- Enacting legislation to make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible.
- A package of bills to improve our state's economic competitiveness and keep Boeing jobs in our communities.
- Funding for local projects that will generate new jobs and enhance our communities.
- Increased efforts to protect our waters, wildlife and people from dangerous Mercury and other environmental hazards.
- New investments in the production of clean-burning biodiesel fuel and other renewable energy sources.

Our tough economic times left the Legislature with few attractive options in crafting a two-year budget. We fought hard in the House for a budget that maintained our commitments to schools, human services, and health care, and we succeeded in many respects- preserving spaces in the Basic Health Plan, retaining health care coverage for low-income children and prenatal care services for pregnant mothers. In the end, however, we voted against this budget because it did not do enough to meet the needs of our schools, teachers, low-income children & families, the elderly, and those who take care of our vulnerable neighbors.

Inside we'll describe more of what happened this session. As always, we welcome your comments about the budget or any other issues facing our state. Feel free to use the enclosed actiongram to send us your comments. And thank you for giving us the opportunity to represent you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **BOOSTING THE ECONOMY**
- **TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES YIELD A LEAN BUDGET**
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- **FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES**
- **LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**
- **VICTORIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
- **BOEING'S MUKILTEO PIER PROJECT**

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Technology, Telecommunications & Energy (Vice Chair)
Task Force on Economic Competitiveness (Vice Chair)
Transportation

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Fisheries, Ecology & Parks (Chair)
Transportation
Financial Institutions & Insurance

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN SULLIVAN

BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

Keeping Washington competitive

As Vice-Chair of the Task Force on Economic Competitiveness, I worked closely with House leadership and committee chairs in promoting legislation to improve our state's economic climate. Passing a transportation package was our biggest achievement, and our other accomplishments include:

- Reforming the unemployment insurance system to improve its stability.
- Improving municipal tax fairness and uniformity – a major business priority for years.
- Enhancing regulatory assistance.
- Requiring cost and benefit assessments early in the rule-making process.

We did our best this session to ensure that Boeing will build the 7E7 in our state and to keep Washington a great place to work and to do business.

Investing in renewable energy

One of my proudest accomplishments this session is the approval of a package of bills I introduced to promote the use of clean-burning biodiesel fuel. This legislation is a win-win for our state in that it will both reduce pollution *and* create jobs. Our state is poised to become a leader in developing renewable energy sources, and these bills — which have received national attention — will also benefit our entire country in becoming more energy-independent. I also introduced successful legislation to promote the use of fuel cells, which generate pollution-free electricity, heat, and water to power hospitals and other facilities that need continuous sources of power. During the interim, I will continue looking at additional ways to promote biodiesel and fuel cell technology.



PROJECTS FOR NEXT YEAR

Helping small businesses

Small businesses account for nearly 60% of all jobs in our state and almost half of our national gross business product. As a small business owner and a legislator, I'm always looking for innovative tools to help small businesses flourish in our state. During the interim I'll be looking into ways to foster and promote microbusinesses, small business incubators that help new entrepreneurs get off the ground, and health reimbursement accounts as an option for helping small businesses provide affordable health coverage to employees.



Preventing senior fraud

I introduced legislation this session to toughen penalties against those who defraud seniors by making it possible for law enforcement agencies to collect an offender's assets. I will continue to work on this proposal and legislation regulating sweepstakes so that consumers — especially seniors — are protected from being conned.



Accountability

I strongly support performance audits as a way to identify good government practices and places for improvement. Last year I developed a simple proposal for the State Auditor to conduct an independent, comprehensive, statewide government performance audit. Under this plan there would be public hearings across the state to get input on the audit findings, and the Legislature would use that feedback in developing proposals to implement these recommendations. The House passed a performance audit bill this session with some elements of this proposal, and I plan to directly introduce it next session.



Please feel free to contact my office for more information about this!

Representatives Jeff Morris and Brian Sullivan alongside a BioDiesel powered vehicle.

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES YIELD A LEAN BUDGET

We started off the session facing a massive \$2.1 billion deficit that rapidly grew to \$2.7 billion. In the end, the Legislature approved a \$23 billion, two-year operating budget that avoids raising taxes, but also cuts many critical state services. Though our House budget included more funding for schools, a living wage for our home health care workers, and a stronger safety net for those in need, we were not able to come to an agreement with the Senate. With our ongoing economic troubles - we have the second-highest unemployment rate of any state - it's doubtful that our budget troubles will end soon. We will continue working to ensure that our state budget lives within its means, but that it does not do so at the expense of education, human services, and our quality of life.

A TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO GET OUR ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN

We enacted a package of accountability reforms at the beginning of session to ensure transportation projects are carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible, and we wasted no time in tackling the traffic problems that contribute to our stalled economy, endanger motorists and pedestrians, and impact our quality of life.

The transportation plan we passed includes a number of critical safety and mobility investments that will benefit our communities and Snohomish County:

- \$120 million to improve the Mukilteo multi-modal terminal for ferries, trains and buses.
- \$7.8 million to improve Edmonds Crossing.
- \$238 million to construct Everett Core HOV lanes from SR 526 to SR 2.
- \$108 million to widen SR 522 between Snohomish River and US 2.



FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

The Edmonds Center for the Arts will be a vibrant cultural center for south Snohomish County, and we're pleased that we helped this project move a step closer to reality with \$500,000 in capital budget funding. We also secured significant funding for the Instructional Lab Building and the renovation of the Mountlake Terrace Hall at Edmonds Community College.



THE EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Photo courtesy of the Edmonds Public Facilities District

LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Bringing down prescription drug costs has been one of our top priorities in Olympia, and we're pleased that we finally passed a plan to help hundreds of thousands of our citizens — especially our seniors — obtain more affordable prescription drugs.

Our plan allows for bulk buying of drugs to save money, adopts a preferred drug list based on the best medical evidence available, and educates consumers and providers about the list, how it was developed, and how it works.



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE COOPER

VICTORIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Reducing Mercury contamination

Recent studies have found that low-level mercury pollution in the environment is a serious threat to public health, particularly the health of pregnant women and infants. However, this year we passed landmark legislation to reduce the amount of Mercury in nature by banning the use of Mercury in schools, requiring clear labeling of products containing Mercury, limiting the sale of such products, and requiring state agencies to purchase products which don't contain Mercury when available.

Rescue tug funding continues

This year we established a permanent source of funding for the Neah Bay Rescue Tug. In addition to funding the tug, Senate Bill 6072 invests in state and local government efforts to curb air pollution. The pollution control funds are used to retrofit school buses with exhaust emission control devices, reduce vehicle emissions, reduce air contaminants, and invest in technology to allow school bus fleets to use alternative cleaner fuels. Though we will have to continue to ensure that adequate funding goes to the pollution control account, this is a big win for Washington waters and wildlife.



**21ST
LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT**

INTERIM PROJECTS

Tackling the problem of electronic waste

Computers, monitors, and televisions contain dangerous chemicals including lead and mercury. When disposed of, this electronic waste, or e-waste, can create a serious environmental hazard. To address this problem, I introduced legislation this session to hold manufacturers responsible for the environmentally sound collection, recycling and disposal of dangerous equipment. Unfortunately, the measure didn't pass, but I'll be working to develop a compromise plan for next year with environmental groups, local government and businesses.



Protecting Washington waters

When a cruise ship dumped 40 tons of human waste into the Strait of Juan de Fuca in May, I was outraged like many of you. Afterwards, the contradictory messages sent by federal and state officials made the situation even more frustrating. This interim I'll be working with federal officials including Congressman Jay Inslee and Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to establish a clear policy so that this kind of dumping doesn't occur in our waters again.



Mending the trapping initiative

Another tough issue I'll be attempting to address next year is fixing the state's trapping law. As most of you know, voters approved a trapping ban in 2000 that prohibited the use of steel-jawed leghold traps and certain poisons. Still, there were some flaws in the initiative. This year I tried to fix the law by allowing the trapping of moles, expanding trapping methods to protect public land such as airports and private lands owned by timber companies, and providing expedited permits to ranchers during calving season. The Senate wanted to go much farther, in effect, repealing the initiative. Fortunately, Gov. Gary Locke vetoed the repeal effort and gave us another chance to fix the law next year without abolishing it.

ACTIONGRAM

Dear Representatives:

[illegible]

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

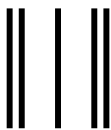
E-mail address: _____



Check here if you'd like to receive legislative updates from us by e-mail.

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Please place stamp here



A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

BOEING'S MUKILTEO PIER PROJECT

As many of you know, the state allocated \$15.5 million in capital budget funding for a proposed industrial pier for Boeing use on the Mukilteo waterfront. We share the concerns of our neighbors on how this development will impact their quality of life and the surrounding environment. We will be working for mitigation funding next session to protect and improve public access to the waterfront, cover fish mitigation responsibilities, preserve Japanese Gulch as open space, and ensure that construction and operation of the pier does not disrupt and negatively impact nearby neighborhoods.



Drawing courtesy of the Port of Everett.



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